

VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE SERIES:Kenya: Transforming Agricultural Research funding towards sustainability 23rd June 2021. Presentation

Overcoming the current deadlocks and barriers in Agricultural research funding/

1. Introduction

- a. In this presentation I will share experiences as an agricultural researcher, and Manager of Research, Production and Extension in JKUAT and as a Kenyan, African and Global Citizen
- b. My objective is not to give you information but to inspire you to put on a think cap. “To Come let us Reason Together”
- c. “Let Food be your medicine and Medicine be your food” is a phrase spoken many centuries ago by the father of Modern Medicine “Hippocrates”
- d. Healthy Food is vital to every aspect of our being but evidence around us indicate that we are not getting the right foods as required so there is a problem of Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Kenya, in Africa and in the world at large.
- e. We have heard of the double, triple or quadruple burden of Malnutrition (hidden hunger, undernutrition, overnutrition, food safety).
- f. What are the issues and how do we deal with it? Why are we not investing in Agriculture

2. Current Deadlocks and barriers in Agricultural Research funding

- a. Mind set and Attitudes (Students, Researchers and Development Partners)
- b. Inadequate investment in Agricultural (Maputo Declaration)
- c. Inadequate involvement and investment in the youth
- d. Inadequate investment in resilient endemic species
- e. Uncoordinated funding Programmes (Nationally and Globally)
- f. Research approaches (Mono-disciplinary)
- g. Production approaches
- h. Dissemination of Research outputs
- i. Investment in Research by Government
- j. Research Impact assessment
- k. Integrity and Political will

3. Strategies to overcome the current deadlocks and barriers

- a. **Mind set and Attitudes towards** Agriculture as a profession or occupation (Personal, Consumers, Students, Researchers and Development Partners) (**Advertise agriculture**)

- b. **Inadequate investment in Agricultural** (Maputo Declaration-10%).
 - i. **Maputo Declaration:** Agriculture and Food Security in Africa: Commitment to the allocation of at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation within five years (2003)
 - ii. The **Malabo Declaration** on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods 2014
 - iii. Is Agriculture the **backbone of our economy** in Kenya, should we change the slogan to the Head/Heart etc
- c. **Investment in Research by Government** (2% what % goes to agriculture should be specified)
- d. **Inadequate involvement and investment in the youth**
 - i. Many students taking agriculture not their first choice
 - ii. Round table we should have the youth/Agric students
 - iii. Primary/Secondary/University/
- e. **Capacity Building** (all Levels -Farmers to Policy makers, research proposal writing-competition)
- f. **Inadequate investment in resilient endemic species**
 - i. There are many examples of the competitive advantage on the African indigenous foods (how much funding goes into these)
- g. **Uncoordinated funding Programs (Nationally and Globally)**
 - i. **Duplication and not measurable who should take the lead?**
- h. **Research approaches** (Mono-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, transdisciplinary, value chain approaches, Agricultural system complex, technologies)
- i. **Production approaches** (Subsistence, commercial, rainfed vs irrigation technologies, Agribusiness, what is the balance)
- j. **Dissemination of Research outputs:**
 - i. Extension systems (demand driven)
 - ii. Social media, Mass media, JKUAT (Smart Harvest and Technology)
- k. **Research Impact assessment**
 - i. All Agricultural research refund funding how do we do impact assessment
- l. **Legal framework, Integrity, Political will**

m. To overcome the barriers, need the concerted efforts, power of the will, passion, partnerships and remember (the youth, the farmer, media, the irrigated and production systems**).**